

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Amended) A computer graphical user interface (GUI) displayed on a
5 computer having one or more central processing units, one or more memories, and one or
more network connections, the computer GUI further comprising: two or more visual
categories, each of the visual categories divided into visual subcategories of ordered
levels of specificity, each of the ordered levels of specificity grouped into visual districts
containing visual subcategories of the same levels of specificity, where the visual districts
10 are represented as shapes.

2. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 1, where the visual districts
are ~~represented as shapes and~~ spatially laid out to show the relationships with one or
more ~~of the~~ other visual districts.

3. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 2, where the visual districts
are represented as concentric shapes.

4. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 2, where the visual districts
20 are represented as two dimensional shapes.

5. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 1, where the visual categories
include any one or more of the following: a product category, a service category, a
category class, a category list, a product class, a list of products in a class, a product
25 specification, a service class, a list of services, a service specification, a social topic, a
political topic, an educational topic, and a religious topic.

6. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 1, where the levels of
specificity include any one or more of the following: category class, category list,
30 offering specification, product class, list of products in a class, product specification,
service class, list of services, and a service specification.

7. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 1, further comprising one or more nodes located on one or more of the visual districts.

5 8. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 7, where the nodes are differentiated by any one or more of the following ways: a color, a size, a shape.

9. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 7, where a user rolls over one or more of the nodes to display node information.

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10. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 7, where a user selects one or more nodes to execute a node function.

11. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 7, where a user expands one
15 or more nodes to expose additional node functions.

12. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 7, where the node functions include any one or more of the following: providing node information, displaying a menu of one or more other selectable node functions, ~~a displaying~~ displaying a menu of more
20 ~~node information~~ information, initiating a chat session, causing a user to be associated with a node location, providing access to sales information, providing access to a salesman, and changing a browser page to one that has information relating to the node.

13. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 7, where the nodes have node
25 information that include any one or more of the following: a menu of one or more other selectable node functions and a menu of more node information.

14. (Amended) A computer GUI~~system~~, as in claim 7, where one or more
30 of the nodes is a landmark that marks a salient location on one or more of the visual districts.

15. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 14, where the salient location is fixed and associated with one of the categories.

5 16. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 14, where the salient location can change in time and is associated with an activity.

10 17. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 16, where the activity is any one or more of the following: a current "hot spot", "a list of most popular pages in a computer section", a public chat, a sale, a special product offering, a special service offering, and a sales agent availability.

18. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 14, where the salient location is personally meaningful to the user.

15 19. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 14, where the salient location represents any one or more of the following: a user's buddy, a chat buddy, a private chat, a user's favorite spot, and a user with common interest.

20 20. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 14, where a user rolls over the salient location to display salient location information.

25 21. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 20, where the salient location information includes any one or more of the following: salient location identification and one or more salient location functions.

22. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 14, where a user selects the salient location to execute a salient location function.

30 23. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 20, where the salient location function includes displaying a menu of one or more other functions.

24. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 7, further comprising one or more paths, each path linking two or more nodes and representing one or more connectivity relationships among the nodes.

5 25. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 24, where a path is associated with one of the following: a user's path through one or more of the visual districts, a customer's path through one or more of the visual districts, a preferred path of a group of users through one or more of the visual districts, a preferred path of a group of users with common interests through one or more of the visual districts, and a preferred
10 path of a group of users with complementary interests through one or more of the visual districts.

26. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 7, further comprising one or more node sets, each node set containing one or more nodes clustered in nearby locations
15 in one or more of the visual districts.

27. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 26, where a node set represents a relationship among two or more nodes located in one or more of the visual districts.

20 28. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 26, where one or more of the node sets is associated with one of the following: a density of users gathered in one or more adjacent node locations, a set of node locations marking results of a search, a set of node locations related by a semantic attribute, a set of area visited by a group of users
25 with common interests, a set of node locations, visited by a group of users with complementary interests, and a crowd of users.

29. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 26, where one or more of the node sets has a node set function.

30. (Amended) A computer GUI, as in claim 29, where the node set function includes any one or more of the following: providing information about the set, changing a user's location to be associated with a node location in the set, and changing browser page to one that has information relating to a node in the set.

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31. (New) A computer system for displaying a graphical user interface (GUI), the computer system comprising:

one or more central processing units;

one or more memories coupled to the one or more central processing units;

10 and

one or more network connections coupled to the one or more central processing units;

wherein the computer system is adapted to display the GUI, the GUI comprising: two or more visual categories, each of the visual categories divided into visual subcategories of ordered levels of specificity, each of the ordered levels of
15 specificity grouped into visual districts containing visual subcategories of the same levels of specificity, where the visual districts are represented as shapes.